

**CONTACTS:**

Jonathan Brown  
Water & Resource Recovery Center Manager  
563-589-4176  
[jobrown@cityofdubuque.org](mailto:jobrown@cityofdubuque.org)

Steve Sampson Brown  
Project Manager, Engineering Department  
(563) 589-4272  
[sbrown@cityofdubuque.org](mailto:sbrown@cityofdubuque.org)

# NEWS RELEASE

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## Water & Resource Recovery Center Receives Energy Efficiency Award

DUBUQUE, Iowa – Alliant Energy has named the City of Dubuque's Water & Resource Recovery Center (W&RRC) an energy efficiency award recipient.

W&RRC Manager Jonathan Brown and City Engineering Project Manager Steve Sampson Brown accepted the award at the 2014 Iowa Energy Summit and Energy Efficiency Awards on Tuesday, May 6, in Cedar Rapids. The annual Iowa Energy Summit and Energy Efficiency Awards Program recognizes Iowa organizations that integrate energy efficiency into the design, construction, or operation of their businesses that results in reduced operational costs and greenhouse gas emissions and increased operational efficiency.

From August 2010 to October 2013, Dubuque's wastewater treatment facility underwent a \$65 million upgrade to improve efficiency in methods of sludge handling, biological wastewater treatment, and disinfection. The upgraded facility features anaerobic digestion for wastewater sludge stabilization and energy recovery in the form of methane, which forms the cornerstone of the City's sustainability and energy-reduction goals at the plant. The maximized energy efficiency keeps operating costs low and results in lower user fees for residents.

Innovative techniques in the design, construction, and management of the W&RRC are expected to save almost 2 million kWh in annual energy savings and 25 to 30 percent in heating and cooling usage of the facility. Under current conditions, the plant is able to generate approximately 50 percent of the electrical demand on-site using the methane from

digestion. In the future, the plant's methane production should be sufficient to generate all of its electrical needs on-site.

Other sustainable improvements include improved efficiency in the aeration system to reduce energy use, ultraviolet light disinfection to replace chemical disinfection with chlorine, low- and no- maintenance landscaping, rain gardens for on-site stormwater management, and implementation of Energy Star design guidelines for the numerous buildings on site to reduce lighting and HVAC energy requirements. In addition, the 9,000-sq. ft. administration building is heated and cooled year-round with the plant's treated water prior to discharge to the Mississippi River.

The Water & Resource Recovery Center serves nearly 23,000 households and commercial and industrial customers 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. The facility treats nearly 10 million gallons of wastewater daily. For more information, visit [www.cityofdubuque.org/wrrc](http://www.cityofdubuque.org/wrrc) or call 563-589-4176.

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